

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190639  
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APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY  
D/HA - SLOWMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 190639

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: APPROACHES TO  
COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM

REFERENCES: A. STATE 178333(NOTAL); B. WELLINGTON 3084  
(NOTAL); C. KUALA LUMPUR 5120(NOTAL)

1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUGUST 11 MADE A DETERMINATION TO  
PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES 15,000 INDOCHINESE, INCLUDING  
7,000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES. HIS DETERMINATION SHOULD LIGHTEN  
REFUGEE PRESSURES IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. IT PROVIDES  
THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED APPEAL TO EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO  
BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

2. THE PRESIDENT, KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THE PRESS, AND  
THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE  
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PLIGHT OF THE BOAT CASE REFUGEES. ACCOUNTS OF EXTENSIVE  
SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE REACHED A CRESCENDO IN JUNE AND  
JULY. THEY CENTERED ON SHIPS AT SEA THAT PASSED UP REFUGEES  
IN DISTRESS, AND ON SOME COUNTRIES AROUND THE PERIPHERY  
OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT FORCED BOATS BACK OFFSHORE, OR  
REFUSED TO ALLOW TO DEBARK IN THEIR PORTS THOSE REFUGEES  
THAT SHIPS HAD ALREADY RESCUED. THERE IS MUCH MORE

DOMESTIC CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE THAN DURING THE 1976  
REQUEST FOR THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM.

3. SOME COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION ARE CON-  
TINUING OR EXPANDING THEIR EFFORTS.

FRANCE HAS AVERAGED AN INTAKE OF 1,000 INDOCHINESE  
REFUGEES PER MONTH SINCE MAY 1975.

AUSTRALIA HAS JUST ESTABLISHED A REFUGEE OFFICE IN BANGKOK.  
AUSTRALIA, IN ADDITION TO THE SOME 3,000 INDOCHINESE  
REFUGEES IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN, PLANS TO ADMIT 150 PER  
MONTH FOR AT LEAST A YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1977.

NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCED JULY 26 THAT IT WOULD SHORTLY ACCEPT  
UP TO 70 FAMILIES, OR SOME 420 INDIVIDUALS (REF B).

CANADA, WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SOME 7,000 RECENTLY  
INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 450 MORE.

DENMARK ANNOUNCED IN EARLY AUGUST IT WOULD TAKE 50 BOAT  
CASES.

THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS ABOUT 146,000 IN COUNTRY,  
WILL TAKE 8,000 FROM THAI CAMPS, IN ADDITION TO 7,000  
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BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE CHARGE' IS REQUESTED TO BRING  
THE FOREGOING TO THE ATTENTION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY  
ROMULO, PARTICULARLY OUR ACTION TO ACCEPT 7,000 BOAT  
CASES, WHICH ARE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THE GOP. YOU MAY  
ASSURE ROMULO THAT THE U.S. BOAT CASE PROGRAM AND THOSE OF  
OTHER COUNTRIES WILL COVER THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES IN  
THE PHILIPPINES AND ELSEWHERE (E.G. FISHERMEN) WHO  
PREVIOUSLY WERE NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER OUR CONDITIONAL ENTRY  
PROGRAM. MORE LIBERAL CRITERIA UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM  
ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE MOVEMENT OF NUMBERS OF SUCH  
INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHO THIS YEAR HAVE FORMED  
A LARGE PROTION OF REFUGEE ARRIVALS IN THE PHILIPPINES.  
YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT THE USG HAS FAVORABLY NOTED AND  
EXTENDS ITS APPRECIATION TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR ITS  
LIBERAL POLICY OF ACCEPTING REFUGEES WHEN THEIR ONWARD  
MOVEMENT WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WILL BE ONCE OUR  
NEW U.S. PROGRAM BECOMES OPERATIONAL. WE HOPE THAT THIS  
HOSPITALITY WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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